

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 134096
ORIGIN NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 PA-02 ISO-00 H-02
SSM-05 SIG-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 /072 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:WBHARRIS:DP
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
PA/PRESS - MR. CARTER
H - MR. FLATEN
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER
NEA/EGY - MR. MARTHINSEN
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM

-----119514 260013Z /72

O 252320Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO
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PAGE 02 STATE 134096

AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USCINCEUR
SECDEF WASHDC 0000
JCS WASHDC 0000
CIA WASHDC 0000
NSC WASHDC 0000
USICA WASHDC

UNCLAS STATE 134096

CINCEUR FOR POLAD; TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - MAY 25, 1978

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR MAY 25. FYI ONLY,
OFFICER PRESENT TODAY WAS TOM RESTON.

Q. THERE WAS A STATEMENT MADE IN THE ISRAELI KNESSET YES-
TERDAY BY FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN WHICH THEN TRIGGERED A
RESPONSE FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT LATE YESTERDAY. CAN YOU
BRING US UP TO DATE? THE STATE DEPARTMENT, AS I UNDERSTAND
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PAGE 03 STATE 134096

YOUR STATEMENT, DID NOT TRANSMIT ANY DOCUMENTS, BUT IT HAS
BEEN TRANSMITTING MESSAGES BACK AND FORTH. IS THAT CORRECT?

A. WE ARE RATHER PUZZLED BY THE PRESS REPORTS WHICH WE
HAVE SEEN ON THIS SUBJECT. WE HAVE CONVEYED NO DOCUMENT TO
ISRAEL AS SUGGESTED IN THE REPORTS OF THE MAY 19 MEETING
BETWEEN AMBASSADOR LEWIS AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER,
MR. DAYAN.

THE STATUS OF THE MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS IS AS I GAVE IT
HERE IN THE DEPARTMENT LAST FRIDAY. WE ARE WAITING FOR

ANSWERS FROM THE ISRAELI CABINET TO QUESTIONS WHICH THE
FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE PRIME MINISTER WERE ASKED BY
SECRETARY VANCE. ON THE OTHER SIDE, WE ALSO CONTINUE IN
CONTACT WITH PRESIDENT SADAT ABOUT ANY IDEAS HE MAY HAVE
FOR MOVING FORWARD THE NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING THE FUTURE
OF THE WEST BANK AND GAZA. WE HAVE RECEIVED SOME IDEAS
FROM THE EGYPTIANS AND ARE CONTINUING OUR EXCHANGE WITH
THEM IN THIS RESPECT. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN ASKED BY ISRAEL
TO CONVEY CERTAIN QUESTIONS TO EGYPT.

WE HAVE BEEN KEEPING EACH SIDE GENERALLY INFORMED OF THE VIEWS AND THE QUESTIONS OF THE OTHER AS WE UNDERSTAND THEM. AT NO TIME HAVE WE DECLINED TO TRANSMIT ANYTHING TO ONE SIDE WHICH THE OTHER SIDE HAS ASKED US TO CONVEY. BUT AS TO THE SPECIFICS OF WHAT IS GOING BACK AND FORTH, I AM NOT GOING TO BE IN A POSITION TO GET INTO THAT FOR YOU.

Q. YESTERDAY THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR SAID THAT THE ISSUE OF UN RESOLUTION 242 IS NO LONGER IN DISPUTE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL. HE SUGGESTED THAT THERE IS NOW AGREEMENT ON THE INTERPRETATION OF HOW AND WHERE IT SHOULD BE APPLIED. IS THIS THE CASE?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING FOR YOU ON THAT.
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PAGE 04 STATE 134096

Q. WILL YOU TAKE THAT, PLEASE?

A. YES, I WILL SEE WHAT I CAN FIND OUT ABOUT THAT, BUT THAT IS ONE OF THE SPECIFIC ISSUES WHICH HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED ALL ALONG. I AM DOUBTFUL THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO GET INTO THE PIECE-MEAL ANSWERS OF JUST EXACTLY WHAT THE STATUS OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS ARE.

Q. STRICTLY SPEAKING, YOUR STATEMENT DOES NOT RESPOND DIRECTLY TO WHAT FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN SAID IN THAT HE SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES TOLD EGYPT THAT ITS RESPONSES TO THE QUESTIONS POSED BY ISRAEL THROUGH THE UNITED STATES AS AN INTERMEDIARY WERE IN SOME FASHION UNACCEPTABLE. DID THE UNITED STATES TELL EGYPT THAT IT HAD PRESENTED SOME PROPOSALS THAT WERE BASICALLY UNACCEPTABLE, QUITE APART FROM THE QUESTION WHETHER IT PHYSICALLY TRANSMITTED THE EGYPTIAN ANSWER.

A. WE ARE A LITTLE BIT PUZZLED BY MR. DAYAN'S SPEECH AND EXACTLY WHAT HE WAS REFERRING TO IN HIS SPEECH. BUT I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING FURTHER FOR YOU THAN WHAT I HAVE SAID. I AM NOT GOING TO GET INTO THE SPECIFICS OF WHAT

EACH SIDE IS SAYING, WHETHER WE FIND THEM ACCEPTABLE OR UNACCEPTABLE OR WHETHER WE ARE EVEN IN A POSITION TO FIND ANYTHING ACCEPTABLE OR UNACCEPTABLE.

Q. WOULD YOU SAY WHETHER IN EXCHANGING, CONVEYING INFORMATION BACK AND FORTH, DID THE UNITED STATES OFFER ITS EVALUATION TO EITHER OF THE PARTIES OR BOTH OF THE PARTIES OF THE CONTENT OF WHAT IT CARRIED?

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PAGE 05 STATE 134096

A. I CAN'T RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT WE HAVE DONE
THAT ON OCCASION IN THE PAST.

CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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ISecure: 1
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
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